

MEDIA RELEASE



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Unity and goodwill must be maintained until polling day

Marking the fifth anniversary of the historic National Apology, ANTaR welcomes the passage of the Act of Recognition as another important act of reconciliation and an expression of goodwill by the Parliament to lead the journey ahead.

“We commend Prime Minister Gillard and Mr Abbott for affirming their shared commitment to achieving Constitutional Recognition of the First Peoples in Federal Parliament today,” said Jacqueline Phillips, National Director.

“We now call on political leaders to act with courage to translate that shared commitment into united action to recognise the First Australians on a platform of equality in our nation’s founding document.”

The immediate priority must be to agree on a model of reform with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders in the coming months. This model should address the omissions and prejudices in our Constitution and be informed by the Expert Panel’s recommendations.

ANTaR welcomes the Coalition’s renewed commitment to working as “partners and collaborators” with the Government to ensure the success of this important national process.

As Professor Patrick Dodson said this morning, though we may have climbed a hill today, the summit awaits. We must all remain focused on that goal.

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